Andrew Panek

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Dear Mike Lupica,

Your book *Travel Team* started my interest in reading. I was able to feel at home in this book because I felt what Danny was feeling. I’m a big athlete and especially play basketball so I really didn’t find too much interest in reading until *Travel Team*. Since then I have read all the rest of your books (with the exception of *Million Dollar Throw*) and will continue for books to come.

When Danny was cut from the travel team I knew what it was like to not be on a team with your friends and I also knew what it felt like to have your dad coach your team because I was on a separate team from most of my friends and had my dad as a coach in all my career in Little League. For this reason I really felt involved in the story, knowing that Danny will be going through the same things I went through such as in one point in the story, being a little bit of a favorite against the rest of your team. Once Danny’s actual team was created I was rooting for them completely to beat the original travel team and eventually win the championship just as the team I was on would.

I felt like I was going on a rollercoaster while reading *Travel Team* because of all the ups and downs in it, especially during the close-call games where one little mistake could change everything. Even in parts that I couldn’t relate such as Danny figuring out who his dad really is and was, I always felt like a part of the story. So when the ending finally came I was very happy and relieved that Danny’s team won the championship which once again suited my life because in Little League my team would go on to win championships two of the three years I played, all against the teams my friends played on.

*Travel Team* really reminded me of my life and so did the other books you wrote. It really made me think of my past and made me feel like I’m not alone in the world and that people go what I go through even when I believe it most. So I thank you for writing such interesting, but realistic books.

Sincerely,

Andrew Panek